

Religion and Genocide

REL 410-001 | Spring 2022 | 3 Credit Hours

Seminar

Dr. Steve Jacobs

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

- Dr. Steve Jacobs (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=sjacobs#listing>)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

Explores the phenomenon known as genocide by examining its relationship to the religion in both its institutional and theological frameworks.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- JACOBS / CONFRONTING GENOCIDE (Required)
- JACOBS / (eBook) Confronting Genocide (E - Book)
- APSEL, JOYCE / GENOCIDE MATTERS:ONGOING ISSUES AND EMERGING PERSPECTIVES (Required)
- BARTROP, PAUL / GENOCIDE: THE BASICS (Required)
- BARTROP, PAUL / (eBook) Genocide: The Basics (E - Book)

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Students will determine whether or not there exists a relationship of significance between that which we commonly identify as "religion" --either or both its institutional and/or intellectual/theological components--and genocide through an examination of specific readings, presentations, and discussions, viewing of documentary films, and other materials, and sharing of research papers and/or creative projects.
- 2. Students will examine specific examples of historical and contemporary genocides by critically ascertaining whether or not "religion" is a "participating factor" in the perpetration of such genocides through an examination of specific readings, viewing of documentary films, and other materials, class discussions, research papers, and/or creative projects.
- 3. Students will attempt a positive prognosis of the role of religion, both institutionally and intellectually, for both the present and future by critically examining and discussing what various scholars and others have offered to resolve this issue of religion and genocide and reflected in the Final Exam essay questions.
- 4. Students will pursue independent research either through a Research Paper or Creative Project and improve both their research and writing skills.
- 5. Students will pursue their public speaking skills by presenting both Chapter Presentations of various texts and their own Research Papers or Creative Projects.

Other Course Materials

Additional course materials during the semester will be supplied by the instructor.

Outline of Topics

1. What is religion?
2. What is genocide?
3. Scriptural warrants for genocide.
4. Examination of historical genocides.
5. Examination of contemporary genocides.
6. Breaking the cycle of genocidal violence.

Exams and Assignments

1. Response paper 3-5 pages to Bartrop's *Genocide: The Basics*, addressing the question "What Have I learned About Genocide?"
2. 2 Chapter Presentations (or articles related to genocide) and class-led discussions to Apel's and Verdeja's *Genocide Matters* and Jacobs' *Confronting Genocide*.
3. Original Research Paper 7-10 pages or Creative Project addressing the question of the interface between religion and genocide.
4. Final Exam 3-5 essay-type questions, distributed last day of class meeting and due at the scheduled day and time for this exam.

Grading Policy

20% = Barftrop paper.

30% = Chapter Presentations.

30% = Research Paper or Creative Project.

20% = Final Exam

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

All make-up work to be determined in consultation with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is *required* unless otherwise noted in the Syllabus or Calendar of Meetings.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<https://ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (<https://provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance>).

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact (<https://www.ua.edu/uact>)) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Wellness Resources

College can be a stressful time

If you or someone you know is facing a challenging time or dealing with academic or personal stress, anxiety, depression, or other concerns, we strongly encourage and support you to seek assistance or to help friends find the care that they may need (<https://alabama.box.com/s/nz3gs827kx538255typ9hm5owd7xoyj8>).

Also, If you are experiencing a personal crisis and need urgent assistance, you can also contact the following resources:

Counseling Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-3863).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak with the on-call counselor).
- You may also text BAMA to 741-741 to text with a trained volunteer.

Women and Gender Resource Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-5040).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak to the on-call advocate for the WGRC).

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